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Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

153

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ACTION NEA-11

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 AID-05 A-02 MMO-01 SY-05
OC-06 CCO-00 ICA-11 PC-01 /080 W
-----110331 211148Z 711

P 210811Z FEB 79
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2347

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ALSO FOR DIRECTOR GENERAL

E. O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, APER, ASEC, AF

SUBJ (LOU) MORALE OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN KABUL IN THE
AFTERMATH OF AMBASSADOR DUBS DEATH

1. (LOU - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. I BELIEVE THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE MORALE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN KABUL, SINCE THE EVENTS OF LAST WEDNESDAY, AND THE STEPS WHICH WE HAVE TAKEN TO PROVIDE REASSURANCE AND SUPPORT. AS THE DEPARTMENT KNOWS, THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY HAS BEEN UNDER PROLONGED STRESS SINCE THE "PLO" THREAT OF LAST MARCH AND THE REVOLUTION OF LAST APRIL. THE DEATH OF AMBASSADOR DUBS -- A MAN BOTH RESPECTED AND LOVED IN THE COMMUNITY -- CAME AS A PROFOUND SHOCK. THERE ARE ACUTE CONCERNS HERE ABOUT PERSONAL AND FAMILY SECURITY, EXPRESSIONS OF GRIEF AND ANGER, A SENSE OF UNEASE, AND WIDE-SPREAD QUESTIONING ABOUT OUR REASONS FOR BEING HERE -- BOTH PERSONAL AND OFFICIAL.

3. IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS OF THE COUNTRY TEAM, AND PARTICULARLY A/DCM FLATIN, RSO BOLES AND REGIONAL PSYCHIATRIST RIGAMER, WE HAVE SYSTEMATICALLY WORKED TO KEEP LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN, INFORMED THE COMMUNITY TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY ABOUT THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE AMBASSADOR'S DEATH, AND PROVIDED REASSURANCE WITH RESPECT TO SECURITY QUESTIONS. I MET WITH ALMOST ALL MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN THE ICA AUDITORIUM ON FEBRUARY 18 TO BRIEF THEM ON THE EVENTS, THE STANCE OF THE USG, AND SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, CONCLUDING WITH A QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION. RSO BOLES HAS MET REPEATEDLY WITH SMALL AND LARGE GROUPS OF AMERICANS, BOTH OFFICIAL AND NONOFFICIAL, TO DISCUSS SECURITY MATTERS. HE AND A/DCM FLATIN TALKED WITH THE STUDENT BODY AT THE SCHOOL. SECURITY COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD AND BY THE USAID MISSION.

4. COUNTRY DIRECTOR JANE COUN HAS MET OR IS MEETING WITH SMALL GROUPS AT ICA, PC, AND USAID, ENCOURAGING A TWO-WAY EXCHANGE.

5. OUR REGIONAL PSYCHIATRIST HAS BEEN INVALUABLE IN WORKING WITH INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS IN THE COMMUNITY ALMOST CONSTANTLY SINCE THE EVENTS OF LAST WEDNESDAY, AND HE AND I HAVE REMAINED IN VERY CLOSE TOUCH.

6. YESTERDAY, ALL ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION IN KABUL RETURNED TO WORK, WHICH SHOULD HELP THE COMMUNITY TO BEGIN TO RETURN TO NORMAL. I WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION VERY CAREFULLY, AND KEEP THE DEPARTMENT INFORMED.

7. THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT NERVES ARE STRETCHED

RATHER TIGHT HERE, PARTICULARLY AMONG DEPENDENTS, AND ANOTHER EVEN MINOR INCIDENT COULD CAUSE A VERY STRONG REACTION IN THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <u>M. Rel</u>	DATE <u>3.30.81</u>
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